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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,976	03/11/2004	Wolfgang Lashofer	ANDPAT/183/US	5014
2543	7590	01/25/2007	EXAMINER	
ALIX YALE & RISTAS LLP 750 MAIN STREET SUITE 1400 HARTFORD, CT 06103			HUG, ERIC J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/25/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/797,976	LASHOFER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Hug	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 5-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 5-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Response to Amendment

The following is in response to the amendment filed on November 30, 2006.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following: The claim twice recites a "plug screw press" (emphasis added). There is no mention in the specification of the plug screw as being a press. Elimination of the word "press" from the claim is recommended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindahl (US 4,599,138) in view of Miller, Jr. et al (US 3,841,465) or Svensson et al (US 4,274,786).

Lindahl discloses a system for processing lignocellulose material that includes a digester (6), a plug screw conveyor (9) for the digested material, and a refiner (14). The plug screw conveyor compresses and dewateres the digested material prior to refining. A discharge pipe (10) for expressed liquid is in connection with the screw conveyor. The compressed material exits the screw conveyor into a pressure vessel (11). At the bottom of the pressure vessel, the material is further conveyed to the refiner. Lindahl discloses all the claimed features except for a rotating peeling head at the discharge end of the screw press.

Svensson discloses a system for compressing and conveying fibrous material from one device to another. In Figure 1, fibrous material is conveyed by a plug screw 3 through passage

section 7 where it is compressed and consolidated as it enters the narrower section of the passage. The discharge end 9 of the screw conveyor extends into a housing 14 which is connected to another device (not shown) for further treatment of the material. A disc-shaped plate 15 is provided adjacent and facing the outlet opening 5 of the screw conveyor. The surface of the plate facing the outlet is provided with disintegrating means in the form of a plurality of pointed shredders 19. The plate and with it the shredders are rotatable on shaft 16 for disintegration of the consolidated material as it is discharged from the screw conveyor into housing 14.

Similarly, Miller discloses a solid waste forming tube 10 having a compression zone 18 and a discharge end 16. The discharge end 16 of the forming tube 10 opens into an expansion chamber 24. A pressure actuated ram 26 is mounted externally of expansion chamber 24. The ram 26 includes a ram head 28, associated seals, and a rotatable connecting rod 30. Ram head 28 and connecting rod 30 extend into expansion chamber 24. Ram head 28 functions to break up the compacted charge of waste solids when the feed device is operating. A material plug 74 is extruded against ram head 28 within expansion chamber 24. Ram 26 is operated under pressure to cause the extruding plug to be broken up by a cutting means on the ram head 28.

Lindahl, Svensson, and Miller are analogous in that material is compressed by a plug screw conveyor, discharged into a vessel, and then further conveyed and/or processed. Although Lindahl does not disclose the claimed rotating peeling head, Svensson and Miller disclose equivalent rotating disintegrators or cutters for conveyed plug material at it enters the vessel. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to dispose a

rotating peeling head in Lindahl as taught by Svensson and Miller for breaking up the plug material, making it easier to convey from the bottom of the vessel to the refiner.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed November 30, 2006 have been considered. A new grounds of rejection is set forth above. With respect to Engall (US 4,491,504), applied previously, it is recognized that the conical plug is not a rotating peeling head, but is rather a plug for compressing the material at the end of the screw feeder.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Sabourin (US 6,899,791) discloses a system for processing lignocellulose material that includes a plug screw conveyor and a refiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Eric Hug